## Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-60. (Canceled.)

61.    (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a characterization module configured to characterize a user's context; and
a search criteria generator configured to generate search criteria corresponding to a user search request, wherein the search criteria generator is coupled to receive a user search request via one or more input devices, and further coupled to receive the user's context from the characterization module.

62.    (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 61, wherein the characterization module is configured to characterize the user's ~~content~~ context based on input received from a plurality of sensors, wherein the plurality of sensors sense one or more of: the user's physical environment, the user's mental environment, the user's computing environment, and the user's data environment.

63.    (Currently Amended) A system ~~as recited in claim 61~~, comprising:
a characterization module configured to characterize a user's context, wherein the user's context comprises physical environment information pertaining to one or more of: the user's present location and the current time; and
a search criteria generator configured to generate search criteria corresponding to a user search request, wherein the search criteria is coupled to receive a user search request via one or more input devices, and further coupled to receive the user's context from the characterization module.

64.    (Original) A system as recited in claim 61, wherein the user's context comprises mental environment information pertaining to one or more of: the user's likely intentions, the user's preferences, and the user's current attention.

2

65.    (Original) A system as recited in claim 61, wherein the user's context comprises computing environment information pertaining to one or more of: computing capabilities of a client computer being used by the user, available I/O devices of the client, processing capabilities of the client, and available storage space on the client.

66.    (Original) A system as recited in claim 61, wherein the user's context comprises data environment information pertaining to data and software resources on a client computer being used by the user.

67-69.   (Canceled.)

70.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the characterizing of the user's context by the characterization module includes automatically sensing a current context of the user that is independent of a present computing task of the user.

71.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the receiving of the user search request is based on the user generating a search query, and wherein the characterizing of the user's context by the characterization module includes automatically sensing a current context of the user that is independent of the generating of the search query by the user.

72.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is part of an information solicitation management component of the system, and wherein the information solicitation management component is further configured to send the generated search criteria to one or more information sources and to receive information from the information sources corresponding to the sent search criteria.

73.    (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the information solicitation management component is further configured to provide to the user a version of the received information that is filtered based upon a current context.

3

74.     (New) The system of claim 73 wherein the information solicitation management component is further configured to perform the filtering of the received information, and wherein the current context is the current context of the user as characterized by the characterization module.

75.     (New) The system of claim 73 wherein the current context is the characterized context of the user, and wherein the received information is filtered remotely.

76.     (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to identify demographic data for the user and to base the generating of the search criteria at least in part on the demographic data.

77.     (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to identify demographic data for the user, and wherein the information solicitation management component is further configured to use the demographic data to further enhance appropriateness of the received information.

78.     (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the information sources include one or more databases.

79.     (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the information sources include one or more search engines.

80.     (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the system further comprises at least some of the information sources, and wherein those information sources are configured to further obtain information from one or more additional external information sources.

81.     (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the received information includes advertising.

4

82.    (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the received information includes product information.

83.    (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the received information includes data from a database.

84.    (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the system includes a network interface, and wherein the information solicitation management component is further configured to performing the sending of the generated search criteria over a computer network via the network interface.

85.    (New) The system of claim 84 wherein the network interface is coupled to a wireless network.

86.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the system includes a module that identifies results information corresponding to the generated search criteria and that presents the results information to the user.

87.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to base the generating of the search criteria on a characterized current context of the user.

88.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to base the generating of the search criteria on a characterized past context of the user.

89.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to suggest search criteria for the user's search request based upon the characterized user's context.

5

90.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to, prior to receiving the search request from the user, suggest search parameters to the user for the user's search request based upon the characterized user's context.

91.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to restrict the search request that the user can provide based upon the characterized user's context.

92.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to disregard the characterized user's context during the generating of the search criteria based upon results from prior generating of search criteria.

93.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to generate the search criteria by amending search criteria of the search request provided by the user.

94.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to operate automatically without user intervention.

95.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to operate in response to an explicit command by the user.

96.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the system further comprises a first computing device on which the characterization module resides and a second distinct computing device on which the search criteria generator resides.

97.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the system further comprises a body-worn computing device on which the characterization module resides.

8

98.     (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the system further comprises a body-worn computing device on which the search criteria generator resides.

99.     (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the system further comprises a computing device on which the characterization module resides that is remote from the user.

100.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the system further comprises a computing device on which the search criteria generator resides that is remote from the user.

101.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein one or more of the one or more input devices are connected to a computing device remote from the system.

102.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the system is a mobile computing device.

103.    (New) The system of claim 61 including sensors able to sense information about a user's context.

104.    (New) The system of claim 103 wherein the sensors are attached to a computing device local to the user.

105.    (New) The system of claim 103 wherein the sensors are remote from the user.

106.    (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to use privacy information associated with the user's context during the generating of the search criteria.

7

107.  (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the search criteria generator is further configured to use security information associated with the user's context during the generating of the search criteria.

108.  (New) The system of claim 107 wherein the using of the security information includes determining one or more elements of the user's context to exclude from the generated search criteria.

109.  (New) The system of claim 61 wherein the characterization module is further configured to characterize the context of the user continuously.

110.  (New) A method comprising:

receiving sensed information related to a current context of a user;

characterizing the current context of the user based on the sensed information;

receiving one or more search parameters identified by the user for a search request; and

generating search criteria for a search by modifying the search parameters using information from the characterized current context; and

receiving from one or more information sources search results for the search criteria.

111.  (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the characterizing of the current context of the user is performed by a characterization module, and wherein the generating of the search criteria is performed by a search criteria generator.

112.  (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the receiving of the sensed information includes sensing aspects of the current context of the user independent of a current computing task.

8

113.    (New) The method of claim 112 wherein the sensed aspects include aspects of a current physical environment of the user, of a current mental environment of the user, and of a current condition of the user.

114.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the characterizing of the current context of the user includes dynamically generating a model of the context of the user based at least in part on the sensed information.

115.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the modifying of the search parameters using information from the characterized current context includes augmenting the received search parameters with the information from the characterized current context.

116.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the sensed information includes physical environment information pertaining to one or more of a present location of the user and a current time.

117.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the sensed information includes mental environment information pertaining to one or more of likely intentions of the user, preferences of the user, and current attention of the user.

118.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the sensed information includes computing environment information pertaining to one or more of computing capabilities of a client computing device being used by the user, available I/O device of the client device, processing capabilities of the client device, and available storage space on the client device.

119.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein a fee is charged for a capability to perform the method.

9

120.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein a fee is charged each time the method is performed.

121.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein a fee is charged by one or more specific information sources for using those information sources to provide information satisfying the search criteria.

122.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein a fee is charged to information sources for using those information sources to provide information satisfying the search criteria.

123.    (New) The method of claim 122 wherein a fee is charged to give priority to the information provided by an information source.

124.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the method is performed by a mobile computing device.

125.    (New) The method of claim 110 including providing the received search results to the user.

126.    (New) The method of claim 125 including filtering the received search results before the providing based on a characterized current context of the user.

127.    (New) The method of claim 125 wherein the filtering is based at least in part on privacy information for the user from the characterized current context and/or on security information for the user from the characterized current context.

128.    (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the generating of the search criteria includes filtering one or more of the received search parameters based on the characterized current context of the user.

10

129.  (New) The method of claim 110 including, before the receiving of the search parameters, suggesting search parameters to the user based on the characterized current context of the user.

130.  (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the augmenting of the search parameters based on the characterized current context is performed automatically without user intervention.

131.  (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the generating of the search criteria is based at least in part on privacy information for the user from the characterized current context and/or on security information for the user from the characterized current context.

132.  (New) One or more computer-readable media containing instructions that when executed cause a computing device to perform a method comprising:

sensing a current context of a user;

under control of a characterization module, characterizing the current context of the user based on the sensed information;

receiving one or more search parameters identified by the user for a search request;

under control of a search criteria generator module, augmenting the received search parameters with additional information from the characterized current context;

receiving information from one or more information sources that satisfies the augmented search parameters; and

providing at least some of the received information to the user.

11